

Message Text

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S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 2563

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: MILITARY TRAINING AND PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE - MALAYSIA

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1. AS REPORTED REF B, PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S REFERENCES TO TRAINING IN MODERN COUNTER INSURGENCY TECHNIQUES AND ASSISTANCE IN ARMS PURCHASES STEM FROM THE INCREASE IN JUNGLE AND URBAN COMMUNIST TERRORIST (CT) ACTIVITY OVER PAST THREE YEARS, WORRY OVER PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST GIVEN TO MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MCP) BY INDOCHINA "LIBERATION," AND FEARS THAT THIS WILL RESULT IN A MUCH HIGHER, AND UNSUPPORTABLE, LEVEL OF INSURGENCY. HE ALSO MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT CENTRIPETAL FORCES IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD LEAD, IN THE FORMER, TO A NEED TO UTILIZE MALAYSIA'S SMALL ARMED FORCES TO ENSURE THE REMOVAL OF TUN MUSTAPHA.

2. THE MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES CONSIST OF A 51,500 MAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCES OF 5,000 MEN EACH, AND A PARA-MILITARY POLICE FIELD FORCE (PFF) OF 14,500. THERE ALSO IS A CIVILIAN VILLAGE FORCE OF "VIGILANTES" BUT THESE ARE NOT BELIEVED TO BE EFFECTIVE OR TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

3. MALAYSIA'S GROUND FORCES ARE REASONABLY WELL EQUIPPED SO FAR AS LIGHT WEAPONS ARE CONCERNED (BUT THEY INTEND TO REPLACE THE UNSATISFACTORY GERMAN H-K ASSAULT RIFLE WITH M-16'S IN THE

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NEAR FUTURE). ITS ARMY HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS A GOOD PARADE

GROUND FORCE ON THE BRITISH MODEL BUT NOT VERY EFFECTIVE IN COMBAT. THE PFF IS A MUCH BETTER JUNGLE FORCE AND UNTIL RECENTLY BORE THE MAIN BRUNT OF THE ANTI-CT EFFORT ALONG THE THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER. THERE HAS BEEN A POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED INCREASE IN MALAYANIZATION OF BOTH THE ARMED FORCES AND THE PFF SINCE THE MID-1960'S RESULTING IN WHAT MANY SEE AS A REDUCTION OF EFFECTIVENESS WHEN COMPARED WITH PERFORMANCE DURING THE EMERGENCY OF 1948-60. (EVEN SENIOR POLITICIANS HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS ON THEIR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ARMY, POINTING TO TWO RECENT AMBUSHES WHICH REPORTEDLY RESULTED FROM LAXNESS AND FAILURE TO FOLLOW JUNGLE DOCTRINE.)

4. IF THE CT ARE MAKING PROGRESS HERE, THEN IT SEEMS TO US THAT LESSONS LEARNED UNDER THE BRITISH ARE BEING FORGOTTEN, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE NEED: A) TO MEET THE CHINESE PART OF THE POPULATION AT LEAST HALF WAY, AND B) TO CARRY OUT STRINGENT CONTROLS IN THE AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY THE TERRORISTS (E.G., CURFEWS AND FOOD DENIAL PROGRAMS).

5. IN HIS RECENT WIDELY PUBLICIZED SPEECH ON "THE DOMINO THEORY" (KL 2510), THE MAN MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY OPERATIONS, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE, STATED "THE THREAT TO SECURITY FOR MOST SEA COUNTRIES NOW COMES FROM ANTI-NATIONAL SUBVERSION. BUT THE EFFICACY OF SUBVERSION IS MINIMAL IF A STATE PURSUES JUST AND ENLIGHTENED POLICIES THAT BRING AND ARE SEEN TO BRING TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO ITS PEOPLE." FAILURES OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION ARE BEGINNING TO RAISE QUESTIONS WHETHER THE GOM IS NOT LOSING GROUND IN PURSUIT OF SUCH POLICIES. IN OUR VIEW, AND BY IMPLICATION ALSO IN THE HOME MINISTER'S, FOREIGN TRAINING OR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY IS NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR SOUND POLICIES.

5. SINCE WE DOUBT THAT TUN RAZAK INTENDS TO ABANDON HIS POLICY OF MAINTAINING "EDQUIDISTANCE" FROM THE GREAT POWERS WE DO NOT IMAGINE THAT HE ENVISAGES A LARGE OR PUBLICIZED U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WHAT HE PROBABLY WANTS IS CONCESSIONAL (FMS) FINANCING FOR 30-50,000 M-16'S, AN ADDITIONAL SIX (SIX ARE ALREADY ON ORDER) C-130'S, A POSSIBLE SECOND F-5 SQUADRON, SOME LIGHT COUNTER-INSURGENCY AIRCRAFT, SOME MORE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, AND SOPHISTICATED COUNTER-TERRORIST EQUIPMENT OF THE KIND REFERRED

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TO IN OUR 2376. ADDED TO THIS MIGHT BE GREEN BERET-TYPE TRAINING FOR UP TO SEVERAL HUNDRED OFFICERS AND NON-COMS ANNUALLY FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS. (ONLY TWO OR THREE ARE BEING SENT TO SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING AT PRESENT.) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MALAYSIA ALREADY HAS FUNDS AND RESERVES AVAILABLE TO FINANCE MOST OF THESE PURCHASES.

6. FOR THE REASONS GIVEN ABOVE, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE

U.S. PUBLICLY ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A SPECIFIC COUNTER-INSURGENCY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MALAYSIA, SINCE THE PROBLEM IS AS MUCH POLITICAL AND MILITARY SELF-DISCIPLINE AS IT IS ARMS OR MONEY. WE SUGGEST THAT WE OFFER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND NCO'S CURRENTLY TRAINED UNDER MAP (ABOUT 60 ANNUALLY) IN TECHNICAL AREAS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE GOM AND TO ACCEPT OTHERS AT U.S. SCHOOLS ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. WITH REGARD TO CINCESSIONAL FINANCING, WE MIGHT ALSO WANT TO OFFER TO CONSIDER EXTENSION OF FMS CREDITS FOR ANY SIGNIFICANTLY LARGE PURCHASE, SUCH AS A SECOND SQUADRON OF F-5'S (WHICH ARE NOT USEFUL FOR COUNTER INSURGENCY). WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL, EITHER TO THE MALAYSIANS OR OURSELVES, TO GO FURTHER.

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